

**Minutes of Tweedsmuir Community Council, at Tweedsmuir
Village Hall, on Thursday, 3 October 2018 (7.30pm)**

Present: Gavin Parker (GP, chairman), Paul Greaves (PG, secretary), Lesley Kirkwood (LK), Lesley Mason (LM), Ralph Glatt (RG). Duncan Davidson (DD, chairman of Tweedsmuir Community Company), Heather Anderson (HA, SBC councillor), Eric Small (ES, SBC councillor), Bruce Clarke, new community company project officer, and 3 members of the public.

The minutes of the council's meeting on 7 September were approved

01.10 APOLOGIES

Community councillors Mark Cullen and Brian Bushell, police representative Nicola Craig.

02.10 MATTERS ARISING

PG reported that a suggestion made by LM that all laybys should include a sign urging people to take their litter home had been welcomed by Jason Hedley, of SBC, who was exploring ways that this could be put into operation.

03.10 BROADBAND

PG reported that verification emails from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport should now have been sent out to all residents regarding the Gigabit Voucher scheme, with BT Openreach promising to keep the broadband committee abreast of residents who had responded. PG also reported that the committee had submitted an initial application to Glenkerie wind farm for funding for the project, and was now awaiting the all-clear to go ahead with a full application. The deadline for this would be January 18, with a decision in March. An application to the SEE windfarm fund would be made before the deadline of 24 October. A decision would be made by SSE in December.

The committee has also arranged a meeting with Duncan Nisbet, of R100, the Scottish Government's scheme to bring superfast broadband to all of Scotland. Mr Nisbet has welcomed the Tweedsmuir project and is seeking to align R100 with it. PG said the committee had also received a number of letters of support, including from Westminster MP David Mundell and SBC councillors Heather Anderson and Eric Small. PG thanked them all for their backing.

04.10 SNOW BLOWER

PG reported that the council had been successful in its bid for funding from SSE, but were waiting for the monies to arrive before proceeding with the purchase of the snow blower. PG thanked SSE for its decision.

05.10 SOURCE OF THE TWEED

HA reported that SBC had submitted a bid for funds to the Borderlands Initiative, a cross-council project to encourage growth, and if successful, money would be made available to upgrade the site. GP said the council would strongly support any bid for funding, but reasserted that the council would not be keen to adopt the site. The council, however, would be prepared to undertake cleaning and tidying duties there.

06.10 CROSSROADS DEVELOPMENT

GP said that this was slowly moving forward but that any bids for funding were taking a back seat because of the broadband project.

07.10 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS

None

LM reported that the distribution of a free copy of the Upper Tweed Community Council News to every household in the area had been a great success and that the News was planning to repeat this every September, the issue that includes the local directory. Each community council in the area was now being asked if it would contribute to funding this project. Councillors agreed that this would be a good idea and that a windfarm application would be the best way forward.

08.10 SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A701: ES reported that the A701 would be closed from 15 October for five days from Romanno Bridge to Mountain Cross for resurfacing work. PG asked why there was a need to close the road altogether when most resurfacing projects included keeping half the road open with a traffic-light system to control traffic. HS said she would contact SBC for clarification.

Forestry: ES reported that the Scottish Government was looking to increase commercial forestry in the Scottish Borders and is planning to talk with stakeholders in any areas earmarked for development. GP said this might be a good time to urge that the forestry industry sets up community funds aka wind-farm development to enable communities to realise some benefit from forestry activity.

Speedwatch scheme: Upper Tweed Community Council has expressed an interest in becoming the first pilot for this scheme in which the speed of traffic would be monitored by a

villager or villagers at the side of the road using a hand-held camera, with footage used by police to prosecute anyone travelling over the speed limit.

Single public authority: HA reported that plans to merge SBC with NHS Borders into a single public authority had been scrapped following the resignation of the chief of NHS Borders.

Buses: HA said she had attended a public meeting in West Linton protesting at the cuts to the 101 service. However, HA reported that SBC was refusing to give any further funding and that plausibility of a taxi service was now being investigated by the protest group.

09.10 CROOK INN

DD introduced Bruce Clarke, who has been appointed as the new project officer for Tweedsmuir Community Company. Bruce will help take the Crook Inn, and other community initiatives, forward.

The community company's annual meeting will be held at the village hall on 25 October, 7:30pm, when the new vision for the Crook site will be discussed. Present at the meeting will be Paul Jardine, of Jura consultants. Jura has been commissioned by the community company to help raise funds and formulate a business plan for the proposed new cafe and bunkhouse on the site.

10.10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Halloween party: Tweedsmuir's Halloween Party is being held at the village hall on 27 October.

Broughton shop: A very successful meeting was held in Broughton on 12 September, and residents of Upper Tweed were now being asked whether they would be willing to take part in a community share scheme at www.broughtonvillagestore.co.uk

